CELEBRATING

ALBERTAS

FAMILIES

Inventory of Provincial Government Programs Affecting Alberta Families

November, 1991

Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families

The logo symbolizes the strength and unity that come through love and commitment in families. The dynamic nature of family relationships in a changing environment is like the interplay of patterns and colours in the kaleidoscope. Each colour quadrant reflects the uniqueness of family members connected through caring; the heart holds a part of each to create the whole. The four corners are metaphors for the different forms of support needed by all families to grow and thrive.

Alberta
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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Introduction and Overview

Virtually all provincial government programs have some impact on Alberta families, either by safeguarding the environment, building the economy, or providing social, health or economic services to those in need.

This inventory provides a brief summary of each program focusing on its relationship to families, and organized according to the department of government that is responsible for the program. It is not a comprehensive inventory of all government programs.

The inventory includes selected programs that impact most directly on different areas of family functioning including:

Family Economic Security

Programs and activities that protect and support the economic needs of Alberta families through job and wage protection, income replacement, and negotiation of Federal benefits, tax credits and deductions.

Lifelong Learning

Learning opportunities that help individuals and family members to develop academic, occupational, vocational, and social skills, at all stages of the life cycle.

Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Enhancement and optimization of healthy functioning, reduction of the incidence of health problems, and care and treatment of health problems.

Social Support Services

Programs and services to support the development, security, and functioning of individuals and families with special needs.

Recreation and Culture

Programs and facilities to encourage access, awareness, and participation in recreational, cultural, and multicultural opportunities.

Housing

Programs and financial assistance to encourage the availability, affordability, and liveability of homes.

Community Security

Programs protecting Albertans by providing and maintaining systems of justice, law enforcement, disaster services, and facilitating a fair marketplace for business and consumers.

Economic Development/Infrastructure/Environment

Programs that facilitate the development and protection of Alberta's economic well-being and the development and maintenance of infrastructure for transportation and telecommunications, while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Advisory/Advocacy

Mechanisms developed to advise the government on issues of concern to specific segments of Alberta's population, and to examine the impact of government policies on these groups.

The Inventory of Provincial Government Program Affecting Alberta Families was developed by the Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families as part of the Council's baseline assessment of the conditions of Alberta families, and of policies and programs that affect them. It was undertaken as a joint initiative with the Task Force on Seniors and addresses the needs of both organizations through a collaborative process to promote the effective use of resources.

A request was sent to all departments of the provincial government and to related provincial boards and foundations early in 1991, to request information on programs relevant to families. The information has been updated to reflect programs as of November 1, 1991.

We hope that this inventory will be a useful source of information for legislators and policy analysts, as well as community members.

AADAC

AADAC Field Services

AADAC, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, provides Albertans with assistance in dealing with alcohol and drug concerns through prevention and treatment programs. AADAC is funded by the Government of the Province of Alberta and is directed by a citizens' board and a chairperson appointed by the government.

AADAC field services provide prevention and addictions treatment services across Alberta. Prevention services are aimed at increasing understanding of alcohol and other drugs, improving personal skills and increasing public knowledge of AADAC's services. Community involvement and assistance are encouraged in the prevention and resolution of alcohol and other drug problems.

Treatment services are directed to the recovery of individuals who are experiencing alcohol/drug related problems. Services include: assessment, intervention, treatment, aftercare, referral to appropriate programs or services, individual, group and family counselling.

Institutions and Funded Agencies

This Division provides residential detoxification and treatment services: including assistance to families and other significant people who can support addicted clients both during and after treatment. The Division also provides program consultation and funding support to community-based agencies which deliver services throughout the province.

Provincial Programs Division

Provincial Programs offers programs to the public which emphasize education and prevention. Communication initiatives develop and produce media-based prevention program for adolescents and the adults who support them. Support to community-based, youth initiated prevention projects and theatre projects are also provided. The provincial addictions library provides program and addiction information.

Training and Professional Development

This department offers training courses to allied professionals. Prevention and treatment courses are offered on a wide range of topics related to the addictions field. Treatment courses include counselling approaches for clients and their families.

ACCESS NETWORK

ACCESS NETWORK promotes and provides opportunities for lifelong learning for Albertans, with emphasis on distance learning.

Video and audio programs are produced and acquired for broadcast and/or distribution, in subject areas such as youth and adult formal and informal education, health and safety, human growth, child care, literacy and learning skills, native studies, women's studies, career planning and personal development, family law, self-help for seniors.

Education, information and cultural programs are widely available to Albertans through provincial television and radio networks. A Media Resource Centre in Calgary distributes video, audio and print materials to Alberta educators.

Advanced Education

Financial Assistance to Students

Provides financial support to enable Alberta students to participate in higher and further education programs.

Alberta Post-Secondary System

The Alberta Post-Secondary System is very comprehensive with a choice of thousands of credit and non-credit programs, courses and services offered through a variety of institutions and agencies including: four public universities, one of which is an open university (Athabasca); the Banff Centre; eleven public colleges, located in all parts of the province; two technical institutes; four Alberta vocational colleges, administered by the province; six hospital-based schools of nursing; seven private colleges, three of which have accredited degree programs; and five community consortia.

Alberta Vocational Colleges (AVCs)

AVC campuses at Grouard and Lac La Biche provide residential space for families in townhouses while all provide an array of support services including counselling, day care, parenting kits and leisure time activities. A sampling of the courses available are listed below.

- Basic Job Readiness for Hearing-Impaired Adults
- Career and Employment Preparation
- Personal Management
- English as a Second Language (all AVC's and most colleges)
- Transitional/Vocational Preparation
- Native Artisan

Further Education Councils

Eighty five further education councils offer social-related courses and workshops in areas such as prevention of family violence, self-esteem for women, and parenting. The volunteer tutor literacy programs, sponsored by the further education councils, provide one-to-one tutoring to improve literacy skills of adults in communities across the province. One of the primary reasons cited by students for enroling in literacy programs is for their family; to help their children, their parents, their siblings, their spouse and themselves. In 1990-91 there were over 55 volunteer tutor projects, with more than 2000 tutors working with more than 2000 students.

Advisory Council on Women's Issues

A citizens' Advisory Council whose purpose is to help the women of Alberta communicate with government and to focus attention on the concerns and issues that are important to women. Briefs, submissions, and reports containing specific recommendations are submitted through the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues.

Agriculture

The mission of Alberta Agriculture is to support the maintenance and further development of a viable agriculture and food economy in Alberta.

Production and Marketing

Undertakes research, develops and transfers production technology, provides diagnostic and problem solving services and promotes efficient and environmentally sound management practices to assist Alberta farm families and food processors.

Provides assistance to producers and processors to add value and improve marketability of primary agricultural products. Works towards securing and enhancing market access for Alberta's agricultural and food products.

Planning and Development

Works to ensure the close coordination of economic and planning services which contribute to a viable agricultural community.

Provides a complete range of applied agricultural economic services. Promotes management and conservation techniques to achieve efficient use of land and water resources.

Coordinates and/or delivers various safety net programs in support of farm income.

Field Services

Delivers technical and managerial information and services, educational programs and advisory services to farmers and farm families through a network of 6 regional and 66 district offices across Alberta. Provides support and assistance to maintain and develop agricultural and rural associations and organizations.

Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC)

Provides loans, incentives and consulting services to farm families and agribusinesses. ADC assists family owned farm businesses develop as profitable, self-supporting enterprises, and promotes value-added processing and the farm service sector.

Alberta Family Life and Substance Abuse Foundation

The objectives of the Foundation are to strengthen Alberta families through the discovery and application of new knowledge about substance abuse by supporting

a) the development and evaluation of new educational and public awareness programs on family life and substance abuse,

b) the development and evaluation of new methods for the treatment of substance abuse,

c) innovative basic and applied research projects on the relationship between family life and substance abuse and other innovative studies in the field of substance abuse,

d) the evaluation of proposed and current programs relating to family life and substance abuse, and

e) the development of an information base on family life and substance abuse in Alberta.

Attorney General

Court Services Program

Provides administrative support to all levels of courts in the province with respect to cases pertaining to young offenders, family relations, small claims actions and criminal offenses, including the processing of fines and specified penalties.

Property Services

Property Registry

Protects property rights by providing and maintaining systems of registration for real and personal property and providing information about the ownership of land and about security interests in personal property (e.g., motor vehicles) through the Land Titles Offices and the Personal Property Registry.

Office of the Public Trustee

Protects property rights by protecting and administering deceased persons' estates whose adult beneficiaries do not reside within the Province of Alberta; handling the financial affairs of adults who are unable to make reasonable decisions relating to their estates and who have no adult relatives in Alberta suitable to become trustees; reviewing the private trustee court applications dealing with Dependent Adults; acting as custodian of property belonging to convicts and missing persons as well as overseeing and administering the property of minor children until they reach the age of majority.

Legal Services - Criminal Justice

Provides legal advice to government departments and enforcement agencies as to the feasibility of charges under the Criminal Code, Young Offenders Act or Provincial Legislation; represents the Crown in prosecutions carried out under the Criminal Code, Young Offenders Act and Provincial Legislation.

Legal Services - Civil Law

Provides legal advice and services to government departments and agencies; represents the Crown in court proceedings (non-criminal) including child welfare matters and acts as the central authority for the Province under the International Child Abduction Act.

Maintenance Enforcement Program

Enforces maintenance orders pursuant to the Maintenance Enforcement Act.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Provides assistance to the next of kin during and following investigation of unexpected or unexplained deaths, including all unnatural deaths occurring in the Province and by the issuance of death certificates which may assist the next of kin in meeting requirements as to proof of death required by the courts or insurance companies, etc. in estate matters; collects and records statistical information relating to death; provides copies of autopsy reports and other documents to next of kin and may assist next of kin by explaining and providing counselling with respect to the reports.

Career Development and Employment

Job Readiness Strategy

Provides personal counselling, training, and financial support for individuals to participate in both life management and skill development programs being delivered through public institutions, private schools and community agencies.

Career Information and Counselling Services

Provides career counselling, career related literature, referral and advisory services to individuals, organizations and industry through Career Development Centres located across the Province.

Immigration and Settlement Services

Assists newcomers to Alberta in their settlement through grants to private and community agencies, through development and distribution of information and through consultation services with agencies and other Government departments.

Apprenticeship and Trade Certification

Provides training and certification through the Alberta apprenticeship system to individuals seeking entry to designated trades.

Skills Alberta

In addition to consultative services, assistance may be available to employers to establish employee training plans.

Consumer and Corporate Affairs

Family Financial Counselling Program

This program is clearly of benefit to individuals, families, and seniors. Through consultation with trained financial counsellors, individuals receive help in setting financial goals, reorganizing their budgets, and help with mediation where communications with creditors have broken down. To assist individuals in repayment of debts are the Debtor's Assistance Board and Orderly Payment of Debts.

Consumer Education

Consumer Education Courses

Two consumer education courses that are very popular are money management and investment information seminars. Also offer courses on a variety of other consumer topics all designed to assist consumers become more knowledgeable about the marketplace. In addition, offer a number of publications to reinforce consumer skills and to act as reference guides.

Curriculum Development

Work closely with the Department of Education in curriculum development of education components designed to teach young people to be good consumers.

Publications

Consumer education deals with marketplace and money management, so some publications relate to family: insurance, home buying, toy buying, investments and savings plans.

Two examples of publications developed by Consumer and Corporate Affairs are:

- "Moving Out", a self help guide to moving out and setting up your own home away from your family. Includes sections on renting, transportation, budgeting, planning your future, where to go for help.
- "Mom, Buy Me That!", a parents' guide to children's advertising.

Community Services Unit

The regional delivery arm of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that offers access to all Albertans through five regional offices and four district offices. These offices enforce consumer legislation, investigate consumer complaints, and offer a negotiation service in non-legislated areas.

Culture and Multiculturalism

General Programmes

Alberta Achievement Awards

The Alberta Achievement Awards Programme is designed to recognize individuals and groups who have, through extraordinary achievement or excellence, brought honour to themselves, their communities and the people in Alberta. Specific criteria are applied in each of the three categories of Performance, Service and Excellence.

Cultural Development

Workshops and Education Programmes

Arts Study Grants

Provides financial assistance to talented Albertans of all ages for study to improve their skills and qualifications in the performing arts, visual arts, and film and literary arts.

Performing Arts Artists in Schools Residency Programme

Provides financial support to Alberta schools and school jurisdictions to present in-depth performing arts residencies for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. Many residencies culminate in performances to the students' family and community.

Performing Arts Educational Touring

Provides financial support to Albertan performing artists and companies to perform and offer workshops in Albertan schools for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Visual Arts Gallery Education Programmes

Provides children, youth, adults, families and teachers with special prepared art exhibitions and interpretive programmes to help them understand and appreciate art.

Workshops

Offered in performing, visual, film and literary arts to a wide range of age groups in all parts of the Province. Examples of some specific programmes provided are as follows:

- Community Workshops in Film and Literary Arts are organized on a regional basis with a co-sponsoring cultural organization to give all individuals and communities an opportunity to learn from successful writers, editors, publishers and film makers. Mini-workshops may also be planned to bring a speaker to a district for a day-long seminar focusing on a specific topic.

- Community Theatre Workshop Program is intended to assist community theatres with weekend workshops in their own communities.

- Provincial Jazz and String Workshops: provide teenagers with an intensive summer jazz or conservatory programme.

- Artstrek - a residential summer theatre programme for teenagers (14-18 years of age).

- Community Music Workshop Program: provides community music organizations with weekend workshops in their own community.

- Musicamrose provides a residential summer programme of music training in band, choral, piano and conducting for teenagers.

- Dramaworks - a summer theatre training programme for adults, 18 years and up.

- "Series" Summer School provides adults with low-cost, high-quality visual arts instruction in an intensive, residential situation. Approximately 55 courses are offered each year in areas such as glassblowing, painting, drawing, bronze casting, clay etc.

- "Summerscapes" Summer School provides Alberta youth with an intensive residential education programme to develop their artistic capabilities and to learn more about careers in the visual arts.

- Art Aware: Encouraging the Creativity of Children consists of workshops that are co-sponsored with community groups to assist and encourage parents, teachers, community instructors and leaders to develop children's artistic abilities and skills.

Access and Awareness

Exhibition and Extension Assistance

Provides physical and consultative services to artists, organizations, galleries and institutions in the development of exposure opportunities for Albertan artists, and to encourage the public, including families, to enjoy the visual arts.

Arts Newsletters

List opportunities, events and information that impact on individual family members or whole families (e.g., workshops, conferences, exhibitions, etc.)

Consultative Services

Provides education, technical information, resources and referral services to parents, teachers, artists, daycare workers, administrators, organizations, etc., on various aspects of the visual, performing, and film and literary arts.

Information Centres

Provides access to publications, audio-visual materials and other types of printed materials that provide information of interest to individual family members or families together (e.g., manuals on craft techniques, videotapes profiling individual artists, etc.).

Performing Arts Community Series Grant

Provides financial assistance to community organizations to enable them to present a performing arts concern series to entertain and enlighten families in the community.

Professional Performing Arts Organization Operating Assistance

Provides Albertans greater access to the performing arts and to develop Alberta's professional performing artists.

Performing Arts Amateur Operating Assistance

Provides Albertans, both young and old, with greater access to the performing arts, both as audience members and participants.

Festivals Programme

Provides assistance to Albertan non-profit organizations which present recurring performing arts festivals in the Provinces (e.g., Children's Festivals, Folk Festivals, etc.).

Competitive Festivals

Provides assistance to organizations in staging competitive performing arts festivals in Alberta.

Visual Arts Consumer Development

Provides printed information and consultative services to people wishing to purchase art or participate in the arts.

Jubilee Auditoriums

The Jubilee Auditoriums are home to many and varied family programmes including Symphony, Opera, Theatre, Musicals, Performances for youth, Country, Popular Music, Religious events, Graduations and Convocations.

Film Censorship

The Alberta Motion Picture Censor Board is responsible for the classification of all films scheduled for public exhibition within the province. The Board also provides specific warnings and information pieces to assist parents in the selection of appropriate film entertainment for their families.

Library Services

Public Libraries provide a wide range of library materials for individuals of all ages including information on all aspects of family life, and educational, recreational and cultural programmes which assist individuals and families to enhance the quality of life. Alberta public libraries serve 95% of the province's population, and are located in almost every community.

The mission of Library Services Branch is to promote a high quality of library and information service accessible to all Albertans through the development of public libraries and regional library systems, the provision of specialized direct services and the coordination of cooperation between all types of libraries.

Key programmes which support the development and enhancement of public library services are as follows:

Financial Assistance to Public Libraries

Provides annual operating grants to municipal and community libraries and library systems.

Regional Library System Development and Expansion

Provides grants and consultative assistance to support the establishment and expansion of regional library systems.

Interlibrary Loan Network

Facilitates the sharing of library materials among libraries in Alberta and elsewhere.

Zenith Telephone Information Service

Assists public libraries in providing information services to users.

Multilingual Biblioservice

Provides books in 30 languages to public libraries for the use of Albertans who wish to read in a language other than English.

Talking Books for the Print Handicapped

Provides books on audio cassette to public libraries for the use of individual who are unable to use conventional print materials.

Historical Resources

Heritage Facilities

Public programmes offered at Heritage Facilities throughout the province serve an important education function for school tours and family groups and provide family tourist destinations to encourage travel throughout Alberta. Operating Facilities currently include the Provincial Museum, Tyrrell Museum, and 12 Historic Sites including Cochrane Ranche, Historic Dunvegan, Father Lacombe Chapel, Fort McMurray Oil Sands Interpretive Centre, Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Leitch Colleries, Rutherford House, Stephansson House, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, and Victoria Settlement. Friends Societies at all Sites encourage active community involvement in special programming and site operations, and in many smaller communities the Heritage Facilities are important community centres. Some examples of the type of family programming offered at these facilities are as follows:

Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

Provides visitors with a deeper appreciation of the Frank Slide and early coal mining history of the Crowsnest Pass. Staff-delivered interpretive programmes offer entertaining insight into the colourful past.

Rutherford House

Was the home of Alexander Cameron Rutherford, first Premier of Alberta. The house has been restored to its post-Edwardian era elegance and refurnished to reflect the gracious lifestyle of the period. Costumed interpreters re-enact life in 1915 through activities such as baking on a wood stove, historical skits, craft demonstrations, and musical performances.

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village

Tells the fascinating story of the immigration movement from the Ukraine and the settlement of East Central Alberta, 1890-1930's. Numerous historic buildings, including churches, a community hall, hardware store, railway station, blacksmith shop and schoolhouse have been brought together to represent a "settlement" typical of those that once thrive in East Central Alberta. Costumed interpreters re-enact the lifestyles of the pioneer settlers through demonstrations of farming techniques, trades, business, domestic and community activities, and the cultural and spiritual life of such communities.

Provincial Museum of Alberta

Is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the human and natural history of the province. Large collections of artifacts and specimens are used as resources for informative exhibits and programmes relating to Alberta's heritage. The following programmes and services are provided for individuals, families, schools, and special interest groups.

- General Programmes - cultural performances, demonstrations of crafts, lectures, films, children's programmes and adult workshops.
- Ethnic Festivals - including performances, craft demonstrations and exhibit related activities to promote the appreciation of Alberta's Cultural and natural heritage.
- Education Programmes - topical programmes for school groups and workshops on natural and human heritage themes for teachers are arranged. Tours for senior citizens groups and the general public are given in conjunction with special exhibits and events.

The Tyrrell Museum

The Tyrrell Museum's mandate is the collection, preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the history of life. A variety of public school programmes are offered including guided tours, film and lecture programmes and educational publications. Programmes, such as bus tours for seniors and backstage tours for visiting dignitaries, can be tailored to suit the needs of specific groups.

Provincial Archives

The Provincial Archives is the repository for documentary materials relating to the history and development of Alberta: government records, personal and family papers, church and business records, photographs, microfilm, maps, cine film and tape recordings. In the Archives, these materials are preserved, indexed and made accessible to the public for research and reference. The constantly expanding Archives collection includes such items as Premiers' papers, Roman Catholic and Anglican missionary records, census and homestead records, diaries and letters of settlers, legal documents, CFRN-TV broadcast archives, and over 250,000 historical photographs, documents.

Facilities and holdings, such as ethno-cultural, genealogical and photographic sources, are available free of charge. The Archives also produces other publications such as **Writing Local History**, to help interested amateurs in researching, writing and publishing local history; and **Voices of Alberta**, a survey of oral history compiled in Alberta up to 1980. The public assists the Provincial Archives in preserving our collective documentary heritage (for this and future generations of Albertans), by depositing such items as minutes and other records of businesses and organizations, private papers and the like in the Archives for safe-keeping.

Grant Support Programmes

Historical Resources Division offers the Museum Assistance Grants programme which sponsors the operation of community museums. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation offers a number of grant programmes for heritage preservation, research, and publishing. The grants toward local history book publication contain pioneer family background and other grants lend to a rich cultural environment that benefits Alberta families.

Multiculturalism

All current programmes offered by the Multiculturalism Commission and those programmes that are still under development affect families. The Commission's programmes are broken down into three areas; awareness, access and participation.

Awareness Programmes

Are designed to enhance Albertan's understanding and appreciation of the benefits of being part of a culturally diverse society and how that contributes to a strong Province. Some examples of awareness programmes are: Focus on Youth, Executive Leadership, Community Education, Mobile Display Units, Alberta People Project and a Partners in Awareness campaign.

Access Programmes

Help organizations and institutions develop and deliver programmes and services appropriate and sensitive to the needs of all Albertans. The main target groups here are Alberta Government departments and key public institutions, and business and volunteer organizations.

Participation Programmes

Focus on assisting individual Albertans and social minorities to integrate effectively and participate fully in society. Heritage Support is provided through advocacy and programme support to groups involved in the development and enhancement of heritage arts and heritage languages.

Economic Development and Trade

Business Counselling

The Business Counselling and Development Branch of the department provides counselling services to a large number of businesses. Many of these businesses are family owned and operated. Also many clients are investigating starting a business. Research has shown that there are significant social impacts on the family when one family member starts a business.

Home-Based Business

A number of projects have been or are in the process of being completed to assist in the development of home-based businesses. These include:

- cooperative efforts between Economic Development and Trade and Alberta Agriculture in the production of a home-based business video as well as a workbook/manual for home-based businesses;
- a proposed workshop/conference;
- a proposed Federal/Provincial research project.

Community Development

Through counselling and the Business Initiatives for Alberta Communities (BIAC) program, communities are assisted in their economic development. Such development impacts on the quality of life for families within these communities.

Ongoing Research

More recently, the Department's research program has looked at issues involving women in business, including the balancing of time commitments between family and work responsibilities.

Education

Students With Special Needs

Students with mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities must have education programs that are designed to meet their unique needs.

Education Response Centres

The Education Response Centres (ERC) manages direct and indirect services on behalf of special needs students: Parents of disabled students province-wide can call the **Response Line Service** toll-free to find out about programs and services for disabled students.

Alberta School for the Deaf

The Alberta School for the Deaf offers a broad range of educational and support services to deaf and hard of hearing students including sign language, auditory training and speech/language development.

Materials Resource Centres

Materials Resource Centres located in Edmonton and Calgary provide special materials and equipment to visually impaired students. Over 10,000 braille, audiotape and large print textbooks are available for loan.

Young Offender Centres

Young Offender Centres are provided educational services under contracts managed by the ERC.

Student Exchange Programs

Alberta Education provides opportunities for students to further develop their linguistic skills and cultural understanding. Families participate in these programs by hosting student-partners from Quebec and foreign countries.

How Education is Organized in Alberta

Alberta's School Act places the student at the centre of everything we do in education, and reflects an expectation that parents will play an active role in the education of their children. The Act also promotes leadership and commitment to education at both the provincial and local levels. Areas of responsibility that the province has delegated to the local school boards include: organizing instruction and placement of students including those with special needs, hiring staff, transporting students to and from schools, and setting fees for textbooks and organized school activities such as fieldtrips, lunch programs, and the football team.

Education Programs

Early Childhood Services

Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs are available to children aged four and one-half years and over. Special needs children may enter ECS programs as early as age two and one-half.

Elementary/Junior High/Senior High

Elementary/Junior High/Senior High programs of studies, and student and teacher resources are provided to school systems for use in the teaching of knowledge, competencies, socialization, and life skills to students. Most school systems offer a range of programs that includes fine arts, academic, and vocational courses. As well, Alberta's students can choose language immersion programs in French, German or Ukrainian starting at the elementary level, and access locally developed courses in approximately fifty different languages. Immigrant and Canadian-born children whose first language is other than English are provided instruction in English as a second language.

Alberta Distance Learning Centre

The Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) serves students when regular classroom instruction does not meet their educational needs. The school delivers correspondence courses for grades 1 to 12, as well as preparatory courses for adults. Distance education programs provide high school courses to small schools in remote areas.

Native Education Project

The Native Education Project supports school boards in the delivery of programs designed to provide opportunities for Native students to study and experience their own and other Native cultures, and for Native people to help guide and shape the education of their children.

Environment

The mandate of Alberta Environment is for the protection, enhancement, and wise use of our environment now and in the future. The programs, policies and efforts of Alberta Environment indirectly support Alberta families by ensuring a healthy and protected physical environment in the future.

Family and Social Services

Income Support Services

Supports for Independence

This program provides financial assistance so that no Albertan lives without standard benefits. It also provides supports that help people gain financial, social and personal independence. The eligibility criteria include needs, income and assets test. Eligible clients are categorized into one of four programs: employment and training support, transitional support, supplement to earnings and assured support.

Alberta Assured Income Plan

Provides automatic income supplement to seniors in Alberta who are in receipt of the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement.

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Provides an assured income for severely and permanently handicapped adults, designed as an income-tested alternative to Supports for Independence for people who have reached their full potential for training, rehabilitation or gainful employment.

Widows' Pension

Provides income tested financial benefits and coverage for housing, medical, optical and dental services to widows or widowers aged 55 to 64 inclusive, so as to protect these individuals from the loss of income caused by the death of their spouse.

Services to Persons With Disabilities

Office of the Public Guardian

The Public Guardian acts as legal guardian for adults without family supports who are unable to care for themselves. The Public Guardian monitors court applications, supports private guardians, and responds to reports of abuse or neglect which may require guardianship applications.

Adult Services

Provides the programs and policy development supports to a wide range of community and government operated residential, day and vocational services which assist persons with disabilities to live and work in environments of their choice.

Employment Support Services to Persons with Disabilities

Provides counselling, training, vocational rehabilitation and residential services for the handicapped in government and partially operated facilities to assist individuals in gaining and maintaining involvement in the workforce.

Handicapped Children's Services

Assists families of disabled children with the extraordinary demands and costs resulting directly from the handicapping condition, in order to maintain their child within their family home or in as normal a community setting as possible.

Child Welfare Services

Child Protection

Provides investigative and family support services in situations where the survival, security or development of children is deemed to be at risk.

Resources for Children

Provides out-of-home placements in foster homes, residential treatment centres and privately operated facilities for children who have been taken into the department's care under agreement or court order.

Adoption

Ward Adoptions

Provides permanent adoptive family arrangements for children whose guardianship has been permanently assigned to a director of child welfare.

Private Adoptions

Provides adoption services to families who receive placement of a child directly from the relinquishing parent. Provides adoption services for families wishing to adopt through either government or private adoption agencies internationally. Approves, licenses, and monitors adoption agencies in Alberta in accordance with the Child Welfare Act and Regulations.

Family Support Services

Day Care Program Services

Licenses social care facilities and monitors compliance of day care facilities for pre-school children to the requirements of the Day Care Regulation.

Provides subsidies to lower income families to affect day care for where children need to be cared for outside their homes because the parent(s) is working or attending school.

Provides special grants provided to day care centres to accommodate children with disabilities who have special needs.

Family Relations

Provides Albertans with assistance in resolving custody of and access to their children at the time of divorce through a process of mediation.

If mediation fails or is inappropriate, a sliding scale financial subsidy may be provided to couples requiring assessments to aid the courts in making decisions in the children's best interests regarding custody/access.

Provides assistance to unwed mothers in settling matters of parentage and child maintenance.

Provides assistance to spouses who are separating in making applications to the court for Maintenance Orders and registering these Orders with the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

Family and Community Support Services

Provides consultation and 80% funding to local family and community jurisdictions for the design and delivery of preventive programs. Such programs are community-based and designed to prevent social breakdown, to promote well-being and to strengthen voluntarism within the communities they serve.

Family Violence Prevention

Provides support and leadership to government and communities in the development of an effective response to the problem of abuse in families through providing information, education, consultation, coordination and funding of community based family violence prevention projects.

Provides funding for basic emergency services in women's shelters which provide a short term, safe and supportive environment for battered women and their children.

Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families

The Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families was established to act in an advisory capacity with respect to government policies, programs and services which may impact on family life in Alberta. Specifically the Council will:

1. seek practical advice from all Albertans on how Government can strengthen the family;
2. recommend ways Government can encourage the partnership between the community services components of public, private and volunteer agencies and institutions;
3. assist in creating public awareness on matters of interest and concern to families;
4. advise the Minister of Family and Social Services on impacts on the family associated with proposed Government initiatives; and
5. assist the Government with other activities deemed important by the Minister of Family and Social Services.

The eleven Board members are appointed by the Minister, Department of Family and Social Services for a three year term.

Provincial Advisory Committee on Native Issues

The 13 member Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Family and Social Services, with respect to social services in relationship to the Native community in Alberta.

The committee reviews and provides advice pertaining to legislation; policies, standards and procedures; prevention of family and community problems; service delivery mechanisms, including the transfer of authority and control to Indian and Metis people; training and development of Native human resources. In particular, the committee is to consider the implications of the Child Welfare Act, and the Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1988, and other legislation or programs as they relate to Metis and Indian children and the preservation and strengthening of Native families.

Appeal and Advisory Secretariat

The Appeal and Advisory Secretariat develops and maintains an efficient and effective system of citizen appeal and advisory committees, councils and task forces, whose function is to strengthen the support to the Government and the Department, through their liaison with the Minister of Family and Social Services.

Social Care Facilities Review Committee

The Social Care Facilities Review Committee consists of twelve members, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor-In-Council, from various parts of the province and includes two members of the Legislative Assembly.

The committee visits social care facilities throughout the province for the purpose of reviewing and inspecting the manner in which they are operated. These facilities include day care centres, nursery schools, programs for school age children, group homes, vocational rehabilitation centres, emergency shelters, AADAC facilities, foster homes, hostels or other establishments operated to provide accommodation and maintenance for not less then four unemployed or indigent persons and special homes for the aged. The committee is receptive to input from an interested person.

The committee has regard to confidentiality with respect to their visits. For the purpose of carrying out a regular visit, the committee may enter a facility at any reasonable hour. Most visits are unannounced.

The committee meets at least monthly to review visits, inspections, complaints, suggestions and inquiries with regard to the committee's experiences and activities. The chairman maintains a close liaison with the Minister of Family and Social Services regarding the activities of the committee.

The annual report is filed in the Legislative Assembly.

Children's Advocate

The Children's Advocate Program is an integral and distinct component of Alberta's Child Welfare system. It provides advocacy services to children who are in receipt of services under the Child Welfare Act.

The Children's Advocates strive to ensure that the individual child's rights, interests, and viewpoints are heard and considered. Advocates also strive to ensure that any decisions made on the child's behalf are made on the basis of all available information.

Advocacy is also provided on behalf of groups of children or on behalf of all children receiving child protection services. Advocates identify issues and provide information and advice with respect to the nature, adequacy, availability, accessibility, effectiveness and appropriateness of services which are offered to children within the Child Welfare system.

The Children's Advocate prepares and submits an annual report to the Minister of Family and Social Services which is tabled before the Legislative Assembly.

Native Issues Unit

Provides a liaison between the Department and native organizations, agencies and communities to ensure there is Department awareness of native people's history and goals re: social welfare, that natives have input into the design of services for native clients and support is provided to staff delivering services to natives.

Forestry, Lands and Wildlife

The Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife is responsible for providing leadership for all Albertans in the management, conservation and protection of our forests, wildlife, fisheries and public lands.

A great many Alberta families enjoy recreational activities that are directly related to this department. Our policies, regulations, management programs, and educational programs assist and help govern the activities of fishermen, hunters, campers, wildlife watchers and other related activities.

Department educational programs such as the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Education program package and the Junior Forest Warden program involve thousands of volunteer instructors and leaders in almost all Alberta communities.

Fish and Wildlife Division

- Watchable Wildlife
- Information on Hunting and Fishing
- Report-A-Poacher
- Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Services
- Conservation and Hunter Education
- Fishing Education
- Project Wild
- Camp Programs
- Buck for Wildlife
- Fisheries Access Sites

Alberta Forest Service

- Jr. Forest Wardens
- Jr. Forest Rangers
- Recreation Areas
- Recreation Trails
- Hiking
- X-Country Skiing
- Equestrian
- Snowmobile
- Recreation Boat & Canoe Launching
- Day Use Areas
- Group Camps
- Ecological Reserves
- Demonstration Forests
- Forest Land Use Zones

Public Lands Division

- Natural Areas
- Volunteer Stewardship Program
- Ecological Reserves
- Recreational Dispositions on Public Lands
- Outdoor Extensive Recreational Use of Public Lands
- Ecological Reserves

Health

Public Health Division

Prevention of Communicable Disease

Purchases and provides vaccines and sera for the province-wide immunization program to protect children routinely from serious childhood diseases; provides information, consultation and treatment services regarding sexually transmitted diseases; monitors and tracks the spread of notifiable sexually transmitted diseases in the province; provides information and consultation services to prevent the spread of AIDS, and provides out-patient treatment for the control of tuberculosis including the operation of mobile x-ray units. Also provides control of other communicable diseases particularly in day care and schools and offers immunization in special circumstances (e.g., for flu and rabies).

Home Care Services

Provides consultation and funding to local health units and selected community organizations for the provision of home care services including: assessment and case coordination, nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, respiratory therapy, homemaking, personal care and volunteer services.

Family Health Services

Provides consultation and funding to local health and community organizations to support health programs. These programs are directed at individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, promote personal health and prevent illness, injuries and disabilities.

Family Health Services including:

Community Health Nursing

Nurses provide a wide variety of health protection and health promotion programs and services from health units around the province which include prenatal classes, well baby clinics, immunization services and AIDS and STD prevention programs.

Alberta Hereditary Disease Program

Outreach nurses assist individuals and families to explore the alternatives available and to have accurate information to make well-informed genetic health and reproductive decisions.

Community Dental Health

This program is offered through dental programs within health units and dental outreach programs in remote areas and provides services and information related to tooth decay, oral health, dental hygiene and fluoridation.

Early Intervention Program

The Early Intervention Program is a home-based support service for families with developmentally delayed children between the ages of birth and three and a half. The purpose of the program is to enhance the ability of the family to assist their child to reach his/her full potential through enriching and stimulating activities and to enhance the quality of family life through the provision of information and support to parents.

Community Nutrition Program

Community health nutritionists help ensure that the nutritional needs of people in each age group in the well population are effectively addressed through ongoing community health nutrition programs.

Sexual Health Programs

Clinical, educational and counselling services are provided from health units around the province to encourage responsible sexual decision making, birth planning, effective use of contraceptive methods and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and their possible negative consequences.

Speech-Language Pathology

The primary objective of Speech-Language Pathology programs is to provide early identification, assessment and treatment for individuals with communication disorders. This objective is addressed through screening programs, public education, parent training, diagnostic services and individualized treatment plans.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

Provides, through Alberta Aids to Daily Living program, medical equipment and supplies to meet the needs of disabled, chronically and terminally ill persons. Equipment includes wheelchairs, walking aids, home oxygen equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and various medical/surgical products. Some items such as hearing aids and paediatric equipment are not available to all clients. Consultation and monitoring is provided to program authorizers and suppliers. Low income Albertans are exempt from cost-sharing including those on the following programs: Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, Social Allowance, Widows Pension, and Alberta Assured Income Protection program.

Health Promotion

Provides programs utilizing the health promotion process and develops effective approaches to health education, community and policy development, social marketing and research and knowledge development.

Mental Health Division

Mental Health Services

Enables Albertans to attain and maintain their highest level of mental health through the delivery and funding of efficient and effective promotion, prevention and treatment services. This is achieved by therapeutic intervention through inpatient and outpatient programs, both acute and long term as well as regional community mental health services for individuals and families, community support agencies and approved home programs. Provides leadership in the development of healthy public policy for the mental health of Albertans.

Health Care Insurance Division

Health Care Insurance

Provides health care insurance coverage for services as prescribed in the regulations. Includes: medically-required services of physicians, and osteopaths; specified oral surgical procedures by a dental surgeon; limited coverage for optometric, chiropractic, paediatric services and physical therapy services.

Provides coverage for out-of-province/country health services and hospitalization as prescribed in the regulations.

Provides non-premium benefits for seniors and premium waiver or premium subsidy for persons with low incomes.

Premiums are not charged to persons aged 65 and older, their spouses and dependents; and widows and widowers aged 55 to 64 years who receive the Widows' Allowance, and their dependents.

Reduced premiums are available for individuals under age 65 who apply to Alberta Health under the Premium Subsidy Program. Premium subsidy is based on the figures reported on the previous years income tax form.

Extended Health Benefits

Helps pay for eyeglasses, dental care and dentures for senior citizens and their spouse/dependents and; widows and widowers aged 55-64 who receive Widow's Pension, and their dependents. No premiums are charged for these benefits however seniors are required to pay a percentage of their total costs.

Alberta Blue Cross Plan

This insurance plan covers additional health care benefits. Senior citizens, their spouses and dependents and persons receiving Widows' Pension and their dependents receive Blue Cross coverage premium-free.

Persons under 65 who are unable to obtain Alberta Blue Cross coverage through an employer may do so individually through Alberta Health Care. Persons who apply and qualify for Alberta Health Care premium subsidy are automatically eligible for reduced Blue Cross premiums.

Blue Cross coverage provides 80% coverage for prescription drugs, and contributes to out-of-country hospital costs, ambulance services, accidental dental, and some psychological and home nursing care.

Acute and Long Term Care Division

Long Term Care

Provides leadership, planning, consultation, funding, and monitoring for geriatric and long term care programs. These include geriatric assessment and rehabilitation services in acute care hospitals and the northern and southern specialized geriatric centres, as well as 74 auxiliary hospitals, 43 district nursing homes, 34 private nursing homes, and 16 voluntary nursing homes. There are also small auxiliary units in 6 acute care hospitals in the province. The branch also funds special programs for the elderly with mental health problems who reside in long term care facilities, day hospital and day support programs for elderly persons residing in the community, and special programs for young disabled individuals residing in long term care facilities.

Hospital Services

Responsible for providing innovative leadership; collaborating with health service partners in planning; developing and funding effective and efficient hospital services; and ensuring Government policy is implemented in relation to hospital services.

Ambulance Services

Responsible for the Air Ambulance and Blood Services Programs, the Department Disaster Plan and inter-hospital transfer policy matters. The Branch is also responsible for the implementation of the Ambulance Services Act and regulations.

Labour

Alberta Labour programs affect the economic livelihood, conditions of work, and home and recreational safety of all Alberta families. This is achieved through the following programs.

Safety Standards Program

The Safety Standards Program develops and maintains safety legislation and regulations. The program has significance for families because all homes in Alberta must be designed and built to meet the requirements of the Alberta Building Code, and other codes covering the electrical, heating and ventilation and plumbing systems. This ensures not only a safe home environment but a healthy one. In addition, all household appliances must meet the requirements of these codes. Amusement rides, ski lifts and tows and swimming pools are also subject to codes developed and maintained under this program. Provisions of the Alberta Building Code promote greater integration of disabled persons into the community and require that a specified portion of publicly funded housing units be adapted and available for disabled persons.

Work Standards Program

The Work Standards Program develops and maintains employment standards and labour relations legislation and regulations. The program ensures that the legislation reflects current and emerging workplace trends. The Employment Standards Code sets out the minimum provisions that apply to Alberta employees and employers in a number of areas including wages, hours of work and rest, overtime, general holiday pay, vacation leave, notice of termination of employment and parental leave. The parental leave provisions specify the length of maternity and adoption leave and provide job security for employees while on leave.

Private Employment Pensions Program

The Private Employment Pensions Program promotes and regulates the establishment, maintenance, extension and improvement of pension plans in order to enhance the financial security of employees during retirement.

Client Services Program

The Client Services Program, which includes thirteen offices throughout the province, Mediation Services and the Office of the Provincial Fire Commissioner, provides the "contact point" for Albertans using departmental services in their working life or in the area of safety standards. This program is responsible for administering Alberta's employment standards and safety standards legislation and regulations. As part of this responsibility, information is provided to employers and employees regarding the provision of general holiday pay entitlements on Alberta Family Day. Also, a special campaign "Work Hour Opportunities: Achieving a Balance" was recently launched to provide information on work scheduling options including flextime, job sharing, working at home, staggered hours, compressed work week, shorter work daily hours and seasonal work.

The Office of the Provincial Fire Commissioner promotes fire safety in homes, schools, institutions, the workplace and places of leisure through various education and training programs.

Alberta Human Rights Commission

The Alberta Human Rights Commission promotes equal treatment and respect for the dignity and rights of all persons in the areas of public accommodation and services, housing accommodation and services, and employment. The Individual's Rights Protection Act, which the Commission administers, prohibits discrimination in the above noted areas on the basis of gender which is defined to include pregnancy. The Act also prohibits discrimination on the basis of marital status in three areas - employment, advertisement for jobs and membership in trade unions.

Alberta Labour Relations Board

The Alberta Labour Relations Board promotes the fair conduct of labour relations by deciding complaints arising under the Labour Relations Code. Collective bargaining, conducted by employers and unions under the Code's provisions, determines the wages and working conditions of a significant number of Alberta employees.

Municipal Affairs

Home Ownership Programs

Mobile Home Loan Insurance Program

To provide approved lenders with investment loss protection in the event payments on a mobile home loan are not met by the borrower. Alberta Municipal Affairs underwrites the program. Because the insurance reduces the risk to the financial institution, lenders may be able to provide up to 85% financing towards the purchase and set-up of a mobile home and may also offer a more favourable interest rate and longer amortization period. Eligibility requirements apply.

Properties for Sale

Mortgage Properties Inc. (MPI)/Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation (AMHC) has an inventory of properties available for sale throughout most communities in Alberta. In the Calgary and Edmonton metropolitan areas, properties consist mainly of condominiums. In smaller communities, these properties are predominantly detached, single family units. The number of available properties varies by community. The properties are sold at current market values.

Rental Housing

Community Housing Program

Provides subsidized rental accommodation for low to moderate income families, senior citizens, wheelchair users, or individuals who cannot afford private sector housing. Rents are based on 25% of the family's income and preference is given to those in the greatest need of housing. Eligibility requirements apply.

Rent Supplement Program

Provides affordable rental accommodation for people in need of housing at 25% of income. The difference between 25% of tenant's income and market rental rates are shared 30/70 by the Provincial/Federal governments. Accommodation may be in housing units owned by the Province, Non-Profit Housing Cooperatives, or those owned by the private sector. Eligibility requirements apply.

Senior Citizen Lodge Program

Provides housing for Alberta's senior citizens at affordable rates in rural and urban areas. Lodges offer accommodation including single or double bedrooms, meals, housekeeping services and recreational facilities. Temporary accommodation is also available in lodges under the Vacation Relief or Respite Care Program.

Senior Citizen Self-Contained Housing Program

Provides affordable apartment style accommodation for low to moderate income senior citizens who cannot afford or obtain adequate housing for their needs. Rents are based on 25% of income and preference is given to those in greatest need of housing. Eligibility requirements apply.

Senior Citizen Renter Assistance Grant

Provides financial assistance to senior citizens who occupy rented living accommodation or who own and occupy a mobile home situated on rented land. Eligibility requirements apply.

Public Non-Profit Housing Program for Special Housing Projects (Publicly Owned)

Provides affordable, permanent rental accommodation for individuals with physical, mental, or behavioral conditions requiring special housing needs which have not traditionally been the focus of other housing programs. Rent is based on 25% of income and preference is given to those in greatest need of housing. Eligibility requirements apply.

Private Non-Profit Housing Program (Private Agency Owned)

Provides affordable, permanent rental accommodation for individuals with physical, mental, or behavioral conditions requiring special housing needs which have not traditionally been the focus of other housing programs. Rent is based on 25% of income and preference is given to those in greatest need of housing. Eligibility requirements apply.

Special Purpose Housing Program (Private Agency Owned)

Subsidies are available which enable non-profit organizations to develop and manage emergency or transitional residential facilities providing care to people with physical, mental or behavioral conditions. Clients may include the physically or mentally handicapped, victims of family violence, wards of the Provincial Government, ex-convicts, the hard-to-house, or any other group having special housing needs. Facilities for children who are not part of a family unit are provided by other Provincial Government departments.

Seniors' Emergency Medical Alert Program

Provides grant assistance to low and moderate income senior citizen renters to purchase approved medical alert units to help them live more independently in their homes. Eligibility requirements apply.

Properties for Rent

Municipal Non-Profit Housing Program

Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporations currently operate in Calgary and Edmonton. These corporations use Provincial and Federal Government funding and subsidies to construct, purchase or rehabilitate rental housing projects. Funding for new units is not available through this program at this time.

Projects provide rental housing for low to moderate income families and individuals. The program promotes mixed-income housing by combining market rental and subsidized accommodation. Tenant rents are based upon family income.

Housing Registries

Housing Registry Program

Provides financial assistance to non-profit housing registries which provide housing information and referral services for special needs groups to locate and obtain appropriate and available housing.

Rural and Northern Housing

Rural and Native Housing Programs

Provides modest, affordable home ownership and rental accommodation to low and moderate income families in small rural communities. Eligibility requirements apply.

Rural Emergency Home Program

Provides emergency housing for low income rural families and senior citizens whose homes:

- have been destroyed by fire or flood;
- are structurally unsafe and beyond repair; and
- are overcrowded.

Eligibility requirements apply.

Rural Emergency Home Program (on Indian Reserves)

Extends the Rural Emergency Home Program to Indian Reserves where an emergency housing situation exists, and where the Band does not have the financial capability to meet their own housing requirements.

Rural Home Assistance Program

Assists families in designated communities to build or repair their own homes. The program involves local community management of the housing construction program and individual family participation in construction. Housing assistance is currently provided in remote communities where conventional financing for housing is not available. Eligibility requirements apply.

Assistance for Senior Home Owners

Property Tax Reduction Program for Seniors/Homeowner Benefits

Reduces property taxes on residential properties and farm land.

Seniors' Independent Living Program

Provides financial assistance to low and moderate income senior citizen homeowners to help with repairs and improvements to their homes. The program commenced January 1, 1990, and replaces the Seniors' Home Improvement Program and the Senior's Home Improvement Program Extension. Eligibility requirements apply.

Housing Assistance for Disabled Persons

Home Adaption Program

Provides grants to wheelchair users, or persons with severe mobility disabilities who will subsequently require the use of a wheelchair, to improve access and movement in the home. Eligibility requirements apply; however, the program is available to homeowners, tenants and landlords.

Other Provincial Housing Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

Housing Registry Program

This program also can include units that are accessible to those applicants with physical disabilities.

Community Housing Program

Some units in larger Community Housing projects are accessible to physically disabled persons.

Senior Citizens Self-Contained Housing Program

Often one or more units in projects built under this program are accessible to physically disabled persons.

Special Purpose Housing Program

Subsidies are available for the development of new and the purchase of existing housing for disabled persons and other groups.

Rural and Native Housing Program

This program can also include units that are accessible to those applicants with physical disabilities.

Northern Alberta Development Council

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) was created as an advisory body to the provincial government in 1963. The role of the Council is to investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan, and promote practical measures to foster and advance development in northern Alberta. It is charged with advising the provincial government in matters relating to social and economic development, the development of communities, and the development of government services and programs to meet the needs of northern Alberta and its residents. Public participation is invited through public meetings, conferences and workshops, and practical research.

Occupational Health and Safety

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety is principally involved with programs intended to enhance the health and safety of Alberta's workers and prevent those work-related incidents, injuries and ill health that so negatively affect workers, employers and their families.

Programs and activities include:

- worksite inspection,
- occupational health and safety consulting services
- incident and complaint investigation,
- education and promotion,
- research and information (including a library open to the public),
- enforcement of occupational health and safety legislation, and the
- Occupational Health and Safety Heritage Grant Program.

Personnel Administration Office

Balancing Work and Family Subcommittee

Established a Balancing Work and Family Subcommittee. The role of the subcommittee is to examine the existing structure and culture of work in the Alberta Public Services and to recommend strategies to enable employees to balance their work and family responsibilities while optimizing productivity and overall wellness.

Balancing Work and Family Survey

The Government of Alberta has conducted a survey of all Alberta Public Service employees jointly with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees. This survey was a "fact finding" instrument designed to capture the needs and concerns of employees that lead to strain as well as the most popular solutions sought by employees for maintaining a healthy balance in work and family life. An example of a sought after solution is an alternate work schedule.

Results of the survey are currently being used in the development of short and long term recommendations. The recommendations will focus on how the Alberta Public Service can better assist employees to balance their work and family lives. In the meantime a one-day Balancing Work & Family Symposium is being organized for Alberta Public Service Employees. The focus will be on practical strategies, both personal and organizational, that managers and employees can adopt to provide a better balance between work and family.

Alternative Work Schedule Review

Compressed Work Week

A pilot evaluation of compressed work week has been conducted at seven different worksites in four departments. The evaluation itself consisted of an overview of absent time, participants' comments, and client's perception of service. The results of the evaluation are currently being used to decide whether the alternative may be more widely implemented in Government.

Job Sharing

A job sharing guidebook has been developed to provide employees, managers and personnel practitioners with the information needed to thoroughly consider the alternative work schedule. This book intends to be a diagnostic tool for both employees and managers. With the guidebook an individual will be able to determine whether job sharing is a viable option for themselves or their employees and what the proposal process itself entails.

Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

The Premier's Council represents the interests of people with disabilities by

- consulting people with disabilities, reviewing government policies and making recommendations to the provincial government about ways to help people achieve full participation in community life.
- engaging in public education about disabilities by public speaking, preparing and distributing position papers on issues, and other relevant activities.

The Council does not provide direct services to individuals with disabilities.

Public Affairs Bureau

The Public Affairs Bureau supports government departments in their communications requirements to meet the information needs of Albertans. The Bureau offers complete public relations and communications services and expertise, and provides professional communications staff to departments.

The Bureau also provides the following services to the citizens of Alberta: the Regional Information Telephone Enquiries (R.I.T.E.) system which provides province-wide toll free access to government; the Provincial Film Library which loans videos and tapes to organizations and interested groups; and the sale of Alberta acts, regulations and the Alberta Gazette through two book stores in Edmonton and Calgary.

Public Safety Services

Family Disaster Plans

Department is advising every family in Alberta to have its own disaster plan and to rehearse it on Family Day, February 17, 1992.

Public Works, Supply and Services

Public Works, Supply and Services is primarily a service department to government. The department does have a fairly high business interface, but does not have any programs directly in support of families.

Recreation and Parks

Recreation Development Division

Promotes, encourages and coordinates the orderly development of recreational activities and facilities in the Province. This is accomplished through programs and services such as:

Community Recreation/Cultural Grant Program

Provides $6.00 per capita to local communities to support the development and operation of recreation and cultural programs and facilities.

Urban Parks and Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas Programs

Assists local communities and associations to develop park areas and programs. Urban Parks are directly supported in Alberta's 16 largest cities and 260 Recreation Areas are supported throughout Alberta. Assistance is provided for both the capital and operating phases. These facilities directly enhance family life in Alberta.

Support for Programs Servicing Children with Disabilities

Provides assistance to communities and associations to support programs and services for persons with disabilities. This initiative encourages an integrated approach and supports year round programs and services.

Provincial Sport and Recreation Associations Program

Provides assistance to 107 provincial sport and recreation associations in the areas of administrative support, leadership development and program development.

Information Development

Provides a series of brochures on family recreation directed at the general public. Two copies are currently in print: Step into "Active Family Fun" and "Open Your Backdoor to Family Fun". Other promotional items such as posters, stickers, etc. are available.

Consultation

Promotes the importance of leisure to family to both recreation practitioners and the general public. Activities include a newsletter called "Pathways to Leisure" distributed in support of Alberta Family Day and National Family Week. The Family Recreation Series currently under development in conjunction with the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation would represent another example.

Provides recreation consultative services to recreation boards, community groups, municipalities, provincial sport and recreation associations and other interested organizations. This is accomplished through:

a) regional field staff who provide assistance, information and consultation to local groups and organization.
b) consultants who work with provincial sport and recreation associations.
c) resource material development on a variety of topics including family recreation.

Fitweek

Fitweek inspires families to take the first step towards a more active lifestyle every day of the year, and enjoy the rewards of physical activity. Communications strategy includes distribution of Canada Fitweek Materials, department materials, registration for Fitweek activities, organization of special department events, and consultations with other agencies and groups.

Provincial Parks Service

Promotes and develops outdoor recreation opportunities, activities and facilities in the Province. Provides and develops campgrounds, day use areas, environmental education and interpretive programs to the families within the Province of Alberta. Provides public service in the area of campground reservation system and consultative services to park users, communities and municipalities.

Parks Day

Encourages healthier and more productive lifestyles for families and individuals by promoting outdoor activities.

Environmental Concerns

Emphasizes the use of provincial parks as environmental classrooms.

Alberta Sport Council

A Crown Corporation whose purpose is the promotion and enhancement of sporting opportunities for all Albertans at all levels of competence.

A belief is that sport is for all and that all Albertans should have the opportunity to participate in an activity of their choice. The principle is intended to foster the concept of the family unit, enjoying health, physical and mental well being.

This is accomplished through such programs as:

Technical Services

Over $6.5 million in funding to 81 Provincial Sport Associations and Special Groups with 700,000 plus athletes: 400 plus Sport Outreach clinics; athlete talent and identification; coaching and officials clinics; training centres/camps; Western Canadian Championships, etc.

Local Sport Development

$1.5 million in funding to Local Sport Development: 445 local sport clubs and organizations and 193 Special Need athletes receive assistance through this program for equipment and projects, in 182 communities across all of Alberta.

Alberta Games

$1.5 million to stage Alberta Summer, Winter and Seniors' Games, a great program for our citizens of all ages and our communities in all areas of Alberta. (Rural communities like Rocky Mountain House and Whitecourt can have their own Olympics, and every Albertan can live their own "dream").

Other Programs

$2 million in the hosting of Zone Games, community sportcamps, youth training scholarships, marketing strategies, Special Need assistance, program delivery, etc.

Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation

The Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation is a Crown Corporation whose purpose is to direct lottery and donated funds to the development and maintenance of recreational programs, services and facilities, including parks, and to the management, conservation or preservation of fish and wildlife.

Quarterly Grant Process

Provides the opportunity for all Alberta families, groups, organizations, agencies and individuals to either donate toward, or apply for funds toward projects which enhance the province's recreation, parks and wildlife opportunities. These opportunities provide enjoyment for all Albertans including family units, seniors, youth and the disabled in both rural and urban areas.

The Quarterly Grant Process provides the basis from which three specialized programs have evolved:

Active Lifestyles Program

- Quarterly Community Active Lifestyle Grant Program
- Family Recreation Series (13 half hour T.V. programs)
- Active Lifestyles Promotion (media ads targeting family activity)
- Alberta Centre for Well Being (promotion of well being concepts)
- Special Projects (a variety of special programs & initiatives)

Youth-In-Action Program

- Project-Do (funds to projects by youth and for youth)
- Youth-In-Motion (travel subsidies to youth groups)
- Make Contact (youth leadership development opportunities)

Park Ventures Fund

- support to projects which enhance, preserve and protect Alberta's natural heritage for generations of enjoyment

Seniors' Advisory Council for Alberta

Advises government on programs, policies and priorities concerning senior citizens. Its activities include managing a resource centre of information relating to seniors, operating a toll free information line (1-800-642-3853), publishing materials, providing grants for special projects, education and research on aging. Each year the Council sponsors the provincial Senior Citizens Week held the first full week of June. The Council's chairman is a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Representatives of the general public, the Alberta Medical Association, the Alberta Hospital Association and universities are appointed by the Minister Responsible for Seniors. The Council submits an annual report to the Minister Responsible for Seniors.

Seniors' Directorate

Established May, 1990 to promote and manage an Inter-Departmental agenda; to promote collaborative planning in policy and planning, resource management, programs and service delivery.

Policy Development

Research on aging initiatives, develop policy principles, criteria and evaluation strategies, action strategies in conjunction with stakeholder departments.

Inter-Governmental Planning

Chairs interdepartmental committees, manages interdepartmental agenda; collaborates with departments in development and strategies to address needs of older Albertans.

Research and Education

Promotion of government awareness of issues through communication strategies, programs; maintenance of data base relating to issues for older Albertans; collection of data.

Liaison with Provincial/National/International Organizations

Proactive networking and information gathering and sharing with provincial, national and international organizations; partnerships with business, academic community, and NGO's.

Administration

Provides administrative support to Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta as requested.

Solicitor General

Family Violence Policing Initiatives

Under the theme, "Family Violence is a Crime", the Alberta Solicitor General introduced family violence policing initiatives on October 16, 1990. The initiatives were designed to enhance the policy practice in dealing specifically with spousal abuse. The primary goals are to reduce the incidence of family violence through early police intervention and to increase public awareness through an extensive public awareness, information and media campaign. The program was developed in consultation with police services, police commissions and women's groups throughout Alberta.

The initiatives were developed in five key areas:

Enforcement

Uniform guidelines for all police services, mandatory reporting of all incidents, enforcement of peace bands and restraining orders and compulsory counselling for offenders.

Police Education

An Advisory Committee of police personnel, police training, booklet - "A Guide for Police Officers", a family violence newsletter and recognition of police officers for proper crisis intervention.

Victim Support

Crisis intervention strategies, family violence referral cards, booklet - "Victims of Family Violence - Information and Rights", weekly call backs and court preparation.

Public Awareness

News release to launch initiatives, radio and poster campaigns, logos, brochures and billboards.

Research

Review or practices from other jurisdictions, analysis of information obtained in the annual reports, feedback from victims who use shelters, public survey and status report.

Victims' Assistance

The Victims' Programs Assistance Act established the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund and the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee in January 1991. The Fund isolates monies for Victims' Programs and Services through the assessment of surcharges on Criminal Code, Narcotic Control Act and Food and Drug Act offenses. The Victims' Programs Assistance Committee is appointed by the Solicitor General and is representative of non-government, government, police and community. The Committee makes recommendations regarding grant applications from groups providing victims' programs and services, provides information to the public and advises the Solicitor General.

Police and community collaborative programs have been established throughout the province to address the issues of victims of crime, violence and tragedy. Policy-based Victim Services Units currently exist in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Sherwood Park, Stony Plain and Leduc. The Victim Services Units are piloting the Victim Impact Statement Program. Victim Impact Statements provides an opportunity for victims of crime to express in writing harm done or loss suffered as a result of an offence. The Court may consider the Victim Impact Statement in determining disposition.

Correctional Services Programs

Provides for the correction, treatment and training of offenders and the protection of the community. Administers remand and detention centres, young offenders centres, forestry camps, community corrections offices; contracts with various community residential centre and group home operators; contracts with various non-profit organizations.

Community and family involvement in the rehabilitation of offenders is promoted through:

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs

Provides information and counselling for users of alcohol or drugs and those convicted of impaired driving to promote awareness and to encourage participation in addiction programs in the community upon release.

Life Management Programs

Provides training in problem solving and interpersonal relationships through awareness, esteem building and enhanced personal skills.

Family Visiting Programs

Promotes the maintenance and building of positive family relationships throughout incarceration through parenting courses, personal counselling, mother-child visits, extended family visiting opportunities, family day activities and ready access to telephone and correspondence.

Female Offender Initiatives

Promotes the building of self-esteem in native and non-native female offenders through equal access to all programs available to men as well as unique women-centred programs to deal with issues of relevance to women including child care, victimization of sexual and physical abuse, native spirituality, health promotion, co-dependency and addictions.

Promotes the active involvement of community agencies in the development and delivery of programs for women.

Native Program Initiatives

Promotes awareness and respect of native spirituality and culture through Elders programs, the use of sweetgrass, sweatlodges and other traditional ceremonies, staff awareness training and Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood groups.

Promotes the development of community corrections programs initiated and managed by native groups.

Temporary Absence and Release Programs

Promotes community reintegration through supervised community release opportunities for selected offenders.

Impaired Driving Program

The serious human and social consequences of drinking and driving is of ongoing concern to Albertans, generally and the family, specifically. The Government of Alberta recognizes that the problem of impaired driving is multifaceted and requires a diverse, comprehensive and integrated strategy in order to effectively reduce the loss of life and serious injury that results annually from impaired driving.

The Department of the Solicitor General, with responsibility for the Impaired Driving Countermeasures Committee, and its mandates in the areas of law enforcement and driver management has been given the responsibility for coordinating and directing the impaired driving initiatives under the direction and sponsorship of the Government of Alberta.

The primary goals of the Department of the Solicitor General impaired driving initiatives are twofold:

1. To reduce the evidence of impaired driving in Alberta and the deaths and serious injuries resulting there from;
2. To create a higher level of awareness among Albertans of the serious legal, social and economic impact of driving impaired.

A number of programs have been researched and developed by the department, working in conjunction with other government departments, the private and corporate sector and various community interest groups. These programs are as follows:

Enforcement

Checkstop

While one of the primary purposes of the Checkstop Program is to detect impaired driving offenses in progress, an equally important purpose is to educate the public of the consequences of drinking and driving.

Vehicle Immobilization

The use of vehicle immobilization devices (auto-boots) to combat impaired driving is unique to this province. The auto-boot is installed on the vehicle of a person charged with impaired driving for a maximum of 24 hours, in order to prevent the person charged from recovering the vehicle and committing another impaired driving offence.

Education/Prevention

Impaired Driving Video

The impaired driving video entitled, "The Party's Over" was designed to portray an integrated and comprehensive message on the effects of impaired driving to individuals 15 to 19 years of age. The video is mandatory for all new drivers in Alberta.

Checkstop Mascot

"Chuckie Checkstop" was developed to disseminate impaired driving information at various community events to individuals of all age groups.

Contract for Life

This contract is struck between parents and their children and sets out rules of conduct by which each part must abide. For example, if a teenager becomes intoxicated at a party and requires a ride home, he/she may contact his/her parents for same. Parents agree to provide the ride home without scolding or punishing the teenager for his/her impairment at the time of the incident but have the opportunity to discuss the situation at a later date.

Community Action

Grant Funding

A one time grant may be made available to community groups or non-profit organizations engaged in organized volunteer initiatives to prevent impaired driving in their communities. The purpose of the grant is to facilitate the delivery of local activities to discourage drinking and driving.

Designated Driver Program

This program is operational in licensed establishments and at social or private functions. A designated driver is the individual who agrees not to consume alcoholic beverages during the evening's outing and takes responsibility for the safe transportation of the individuals in his/her group.

Hospital Tour Program

The hospital tour program, entitled "Tagged...For Life" takes selected drivers, aged 16 to 24, through an intensive tour of the hospital. The purpose of the program is to inform the target audience of the inherent dangers of reckless driving and reduce the social acceptability of same.

Native Services Unit

The Native Services Unit is currently a component of the Department of Solicitor General. It is the organization which has been established by the Province of Alberta to act as a focal point for the Province's relationship with Alberta's Native population. The Native Services Unit does not, however, deliver programs and services to Alberta's Native community. The role of the Unit is to act, where necessary, as a liaison between the Native population and provincial government departments and agencies.

The responsibilities of the Native Services Unit may be broadly characterized as falling within four general categories:

- fulfilment of legislative requirements;
- policy development;
- liaison (linkage between government departments, agencies, private industry and the Native community);
- provision of grant funding.

Technology, Research and Telecommunications

Technology, Research and Telecommunications' mandate is to encourage economic diversification within the Provincial economy by promoting advanced technology development and ensuring the availability of high-quality, affordable communication services.

At present, approximately 50,000 Albertans are employed across a wide variety of technology-intensive industries. Encouraging such technology activity helps ensure the development and adoption of technologies needed for future economic diversification, as well as career opportunities for young Albertans. The Department supports such development by offering both financial and non-financial assistance to companies, researchers and individual inventors involved in a variety of research and developmental activity.

Recognizing the growing importance that science and technology plays in the everyday lives of Albertans, the Department undertakes a number of activities, which are intended to heighten public awareness of science and technology, and promote careers in science and technology. Examples include the Annual Science and Technology Week as well as ongoing activity in the Department's Student Awareness Program.

In the area of communications policy, the Department is active in representing provincial interests with respect to federally-regulated television, radio and cable television activity in the Province, as well as with respect to AGT Limited. Reflective of the Department's activity in this area is the recent completion of the Individual Line Service (ILS) Program. With the completion of the ILS Program and the elimination of party lines in Alberta, all Albertans will have access to a wide array of telephone features and services (such as full, confidential access to crisis lines) that in the past were largely restricted to urban areas.

Tourism

The focus of Alberta Tourism is primarily on providing leadership and support to the tourism industry. The department's contribution to the revitalization of the Alberta economy will principally be through the strengthening of the tourism industry and its industry partners. Government and its industry partners in the private sector are working together to make the Province a world-class tourism destination.

Tourism in Alberta is now a century old industry. For years the mountain resorts of Banff and Jasper were synonymous with Tourism in Alberta and they remain as our prime attractions. Alberta families enjoy their proximity to the mountain parks and our countless other attractions such as the Royal Tyrell Museum, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Kananaskis Country, West Edmonton Mall. Additionally, Over 100,000 people are employed in tourism in Alberta generating $2.58 billion in annual revenue, thus further benefiting Alberta families. It is expected that at one time or another, all Alberta families will enjoy being tourists in our wonderful province.

Transportation and Utilities

Alberta Transportation and Utilities' mission focuses on providing Albertans with a safe, efficient and integrated transportation system. Such a system is fundamental to the province's economic well-being and to the quality of life of urban and rural families and individuals.

The department develops and maintains Alberta's extensive highway network, and assists municipalities with roadway and public transit needs. Its leadership in promoting more accessible (barrier-free) and safe transportation and pedestrian environments for all people also supports family activities and the maintenance of family ties.

Treasury

Tax Policy

Alberta has the lowest taxation rates for families of any province in Canada, when income taxes and sales taxes are considered. Alberta Treasury is committed to continuing to monitor and advise the government on the impact of federal and provincial tax policies on all Albertans, including families.

Pensions

Alberta Treasury represents the interests all Albertans contributing to the Canada Pension Plan in negotiations with the federal and other provincial governments related to CPP. In addition, the Department administers the Alberta public sector pensions on behalf of over 150,000 current and former employees of the Alberta government and related boards, municipalities, hospitals, colleges and universities, and their families.

Wild Rose Foundation

The Wild Rose Foundation was established by the Government of Alberta in 1984. The purposes of the Foundation are:

a) to provide funding to volunteer non-profit organizations that provide valuable services to Albertans;

b) to foster the use of volunteers, or to assist those who volunteer or use the services of volunteers in Alberta; and,

c) to foster charitable, philanthropic, humanitarian, or public spirited acts or to assist those who perform them.

Women's Secretariat

The Women's Secretariat is the central coordinating structure within the Government of Alberta to address the wide range of issues of concern to women in the Province. Reporting directly to the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, the Secretariat analyzes and makes recommendations on legislation, policies and programs which impact on women and their families.

Workers' Compensation Board

The Workers' Compensation Board administers the Workers' Compensation Act of Alberta. Within the framework of the Act, the Workers' Compensation Board provides a wide range of services and benefits for the compensation and rehabilitation of injured workers. Benefits and services may be provided to a worker who is covered by the Act and who has suffered a compensable work-related injury.

If a worker is fatally injured, provision is made for a dependent spouse or children, and, in certain circumstances, for any other person financially dependent on the deceased worker.

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